1939/40.?

CHATTERIS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Annual report of the Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A - Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of District (in acres)	13,719
Registrar General's estimate of	
(a) resident population, mid-1939;	5,085
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates.	5,224
Number of inhabited houses	1,480
Rateable value	£15,509
Gross sum represented by a 1d. rate.	£64. 12. 5.

The main industry is agriculture and there are also Engineering Works. What unemployment there is is practically all seasonal and is very fluctuating

Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births (Legitimate	69	40	29)	Birth rate per 1,000 - 13.9.
" " (Illegitimate	2	2	-)	
Still Births.	4	4	-	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 58.3.
Deaths.	58	29	29	Death rate per 1,000 average estimated population 11.1.

Deaths from Puerperal sepsis	Nil.
Other Puerperal causes	Nil.
Death rate of infants under 1 year old.	
All infants per 1,000 live births	56.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	57.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	12
Measles " "	Nil.
Whooping Cough " "	Nil.
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

SECTION B - General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. (i) These consist of Medical Officer of Health (part time)
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.
A District Nurse is provided by a Special Committee for the service of the District.
Child Welfare and Ante Natal Centres and Health Visitors are established by the County Authority.

Adequate General Hospital Accommodation is afforded by Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Infectious cases needing hospital treatment can be treated at the Cambridge Infectious Hospital under special arrangements.

(ii) As members of the Joint Hospital Board. Certain infectious cases are admissible to the Ely Isolation Hospital from this District.

SECTION C - Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

1. (i) As the result of the action taken by the Member of Parliament for this area what has been for many years an annually recurring condition, that is a gravely deficient supply of water in the hottest months of each Summer has been terminated. The recent unusually dry summer of 1940 has been distinguished by a quite reasonable satisfactory supply; the first time for some 16 years.

It is not impossible that this annual deficient supply of water with all the grave possible consequences thereof should recur again, and it is only by the establishment of a special Water Works Committee as in other areas, that this state of things can be prevented and the community shielded from insanitary calamity.

At this present moment the possible destruction by enemy action of our water supply is a matter of the gravest importance and the formulation of an Adequate Emergency Water Scheme capable of meeting local requirements and obviating the consumption of local well water and the letting loose of a wide spread epidemic of Typhoid and Dysentery is a matter of the greatest urgency and needs the energies of a Water Works Committee to ensure completeness and efficiency and allay the anxious fears of a large and increasing number of the people.

From every point of view the establishment of such a Committee is urgently necessary.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extension to the sewerage system or sewerage disposal works.

2. Rivers and Streams.

No action has been taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

No conversions have taken place during the year. The improvement in the maintained water supply would now justify the conversion of all closets where a sewer is available to the water carriage system. Approximate number of pail closets remaining is 45.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

Collection of refuse is on a weekly basis with a large number collected twice per week. No extensions have taken place.

(iii) Sanitary Inspector of the Area.

(a)	Number of inspections made.	53
(b)	Number of notices served	--
	Statutory.	--
	Other Notices.	10

(c) All informal notices were complied with. Other complaints mainly of insanitary yards were dealt with by the owners immediately their attention was drawn to the complaint.

(iv) Shops and Offices.

Regular inspection of shops and offices take place but it has not been necessary to take any action.

(v) Camping Sites.

The question of camping sites presents some difficulties and it would be an improvement if the sites were compelled to be licensed.

(i)	Number of sites used for camping purposes	6
(ii)	Number of sites licensedunder the P.H. Act, 1936.	Nil.
(iii)	Estimated number of camps during summer season.	30.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

There is no need for any action as there are no large factories.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools either publicly or privately owned.

(viii) Eradication of bed bugs.

There has been no need for any action.

4 Schools.

All the water supplied for drinking and other domestic purposes is the towns supply. No action has been necessary in connection with epidemic diseases.

SECTION D - Housing.

Early in the year the 30 houses completing the Wenny Estate were occupied and some of the older houses vacated were demolished. Some of the latter were utilised and accommodated evacuees pending provision of other quarters. This evacuation influx gives rise to conditions almost indistinguishable from overcrowding and must materially affect the gravity of any outbreak of severe epidemic in disease.

SECTION E. Meat and Milk. Inspection & Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. Regular inspection of the farms and dairies is made and samples under the Milk (Special Designation) Order is undertaken by the County Council.

(b) Meat and Other Food. Regular inspection of meat including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, etc., is carried out. Section 28 of the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the County Council. Ante-mortem inspection is carried out only in special cases. Post Mortem inspection is carried out and is summarised in the following table:-

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed (if known)	312	Nil.	3	500	650
Number Inspected.	210	-	Nil.	150	250

All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil.
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil.

SECTION F. - Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The early part of the year was marked by small epidemics of Chicken Pox and Influenza. Notifications being 7 cases of Pneumonia and 3 Erysipelas. No immunisation against Diphtheria was carried out during the year.

Notifications were:

		Admitted to Hospital	Deaths.
Pneumonia	7	Nil.	3
Erysipelas	3	Nil.	-

No cases were admitted to Hospital.

Anti Diptheria serum is provided by the Local Authority and Bacteriological work in connection with cases of Notified Infectious Diseases is carried out by arrangement with St. John's Hospital, Lewisham.

War conditions and "overcrowding" in connection with Evacuation suggest the desirability of Immunisation especially in those of school age and under.

Tuberculosis. New cases and mortality during 1939.

Age periods	Respiratory		Non respiratory		Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
5 - 15				1		
15 - 25	2				1	
25 - 35	1					1
Total	3			1	1	1

No cases of Tuberculosis were reported as being employed in or about Milk Production.

(Signed) R.E. NIX.

Medical Officer of Health.

28th December, 1940.